

## **Project Fact Sheet**

The Fremont Bridge, located west of the George Washington (Aurora) Bridge, crosses the Lake Washington Ship Canal and links Fremont to the Queen Anne neighborhood.

The bridge opened on July 4, 1917 and celebrated its 500,000th bridge opening on September 20, 1991. Just 30 feet above the water, the bridge rises for marine traffic an average of 35 times a day, making it one of the busiest bascule drawbridges in the world.

After 86 years of use, the north and south bridge approaches – the elevated roadway sections that lead to the double-leafed portion of the bridge – have deteriorated significantly and must be replaced.

### **Project Elements**

There are three separate elements for this project:

- Replace the north and south approaches of the bridge
- Upgrade the bridge's antiquated electrical and mechanical infrastructure
- Replace the bridge maintenance shop located beneath the south approach

### **Estimated Costs**

The entire project will cost approximately \$31 million.

- \$20.5 million for replacing the approach
- \$7.5 million for upgrades to the electrical and mechanical systems
- \$3 million for a new maintenance shop

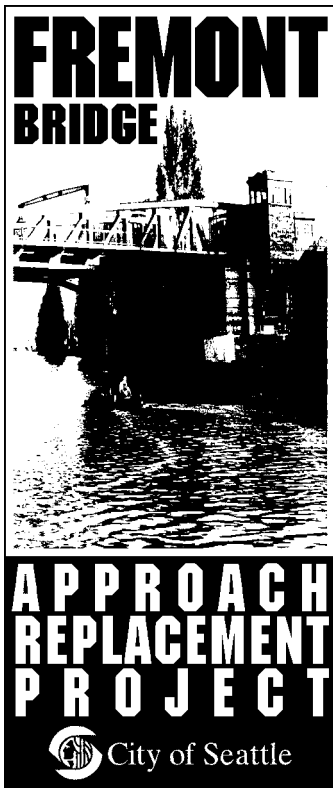
### **Construction Schedule**

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is anticipating construction to begin the second quarter of 2005. Construction is expected to last approximately to 34 months; 18 months for the approach reconstruction work; 6 months for the electrical/mechanical upgrades and up to 9 months for the bridge maintenance shop.

### **Work Completed to Date**

In December 2002 SDOT completed a Type, Size and Location Study (TS&L) as required by our funding partner, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The study described the proposed structure and other design alternatives considered, and showed justification for the selection of a preferred alternative.

In Spring 2003, SDOT received approval for the TS&L study from the Washington State Department of Transportation and FHWA. The design phase is now well underway. Preliminary engineering work has begun, along with the geotechnical surveys and environmental tasks necessary to design and obtain state and federal permits for the construction of the approaches.



## Recommendation to Minimize Traffic Impacts

There are approximately 33,000 vehicle trips per day on the bridge, which is also heavily used by bicyclists and pedestrians. Community feedback overwhelmingly supported maintaining traffic capacity during construction to the greatest extent possible.

TS&L report recommendations include:

- Maintain at least one lane of bridge traffic in each direction during construction.
- Evaluate whether approximately nine months of construction could occur under the bridge without impacts to bridge traffic.
- Follow under-the-bridge construction with approximately nine more months of bridge deck construction occurring on one half of the bridge at a time.

## Community Support Measures

Since public outreach began in Fall 2002, a Citizens Advisory Group has helped guide SDOT's involvement with the community and integrate several community suggestions into its construction plans.

These suggestions include improvements to signalization and signage at key surrounding intersections, a construction staging plan that maximizes vehicular access to the bridge during construction, and safety improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians.

SDOT will continue working closely with neighborhoods, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians to ensure that their concerns are adequately addressed.

## For More Information...

If you have suggestions or feedback, let us know! Contact Rob Gorman, Project Manager at 206/233-7205 or via e-mail at [robert.gorman@seattle.gov](mailto:robert.gorman@seattle.gov).

You can also write to Rob at:

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## Project Timeline

### 2002

Stakeholder Interviews  
Community Workshop  
Citizen Advisory Group Meeting I & II  
Business Outreach  
Open House I  
Newsletter I

### 2003

Newsletter II  
Citizen Advisory Group Meeting III  
Planning Study Complete  
Design Phase Begins  
Business Outreach Continued  
Permitting and Environmental Review Begins

### 2004

Business Outreach Continued  
Citizen Advisory Group Meeting IV  
Open House II  
Complete Permitting and Environmental Process  
Complete Design Work  
Citizen Advisory Group Meeting V

### 2005

Citizen Advisory Group Meeting VI  
Community Construction Outreach  
Begin Construction

### 2007

Bridge and Trails Fully Open